

III Remarks

Claims 1-7, 9-10, 12-17, and 40 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 9, 10, 13, and 40 have been amended; and claims 22-24, 26, 38 and 41 have been Canceled. These amendments are being made to facilitate early allowance of the presently claimed subject matter. Applicant does not acquiesce in the correctness of the rejections and reserve the right to present specific arguments regarding any rejected claims not specifically addressed. Further, Applicant reserves the right to pursue the full scope of the subject matter of the original claims in a subsequent patent application that claims priority to the instant application. Reconsideration in view of the above amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, claims 9, 10, 13 and 40 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. By this amendment, claims 9, 10, 13 and 40 have been amended to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

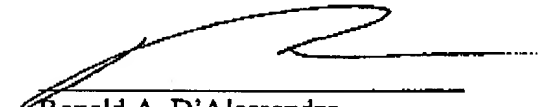
In the Office Action, claims 22, 23, 24 and 26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Kujawaki (2,439,009). By this amendment, claims 22, 23, 24 and 26 have been Canceled. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, claims 38 and 40 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102 (b) as being anticipated by Shakespeare (954,961). Based on the cancellation of claim 38, and the amendment of claim 40, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of this rejection. Specifically, with respect to claim 40, Shakespeare fails to teach a base plate having a plurality of

mounting slots for mounting a tool thereon. Accordingly, because Shakespeare fails to teach each and every feature of the claimed invention, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection.

Applicant respectfully submits that the application is in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner require anything further to place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's undersigned representative at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



Ronald A. D'Alessandro
Reg. No.: 42,456

Date: 5/10/04
Hoffman, Warnick & D'Alessandro LLC
Three E-Comm Square
Albany, New York 12207
(518) 449-0044
(518) 449-0047 (fax)